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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHA POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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STRIKE!





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OUR FIGHT

✰Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✰The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✰Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✰While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✰Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✰Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✰Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✰Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✰Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✰Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Online
www.plp.org



@PLPCHALLENGE

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Brazil's Lula paves way for fascism

On January 8, Brazilian supporters of ex-president Jair "Trump of the South'' Bolsonaro stormed Brasilia, their capital city. Like the Trump-inspired insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, they aimed to reverse a presidential election. After Bolsonaro lost to liberal misleader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva last October, his followers agitated en masse at several military bases. When the generals failed to join them, they mounted a short-lived occupation of Brazil's halls of power.

Twitter-nimble fascists like Trump and Bolsonaro thrive in a morass of mass ignorance, which has grown out of generations of liberal capitalist miseducation and political deception. In a world where the remarkable 20th-century communist revolutions in Russia and China have been reversed, and working-class consciousness is in short supply, sham elections have absorbed workers' energy and aspirations. Liberal democracy–and voting, in particular–are the glue that keep us stuck to our mortal class enemy.

Lula, liberal tool of finance capital

Workers may be tempted to cheer that Lula is pursuing a vigorous crackdown on the Bolsonaro-backed coup by using federal forces to seize local police power, suspend high-ranking security officials, and investigate who paid for the buses that brought thousands to the capitol city (Vox, 1/8). But to cheer for Lula and his gang is to root for a different set of fascists. Even as he cracked down on the Bolsonaro forces, Lula assured financiers at home and abroad that he would retain Bolsonaro's pension reforms that are anti-worker and tax cuts that prioritize businesses (Reuters, 1/15). As the worldwide crisis of capitalism intensifies, the liberals will squeeze the international working class to the last pound of flesh and ounce of blood.

Like all capitalist bosses, Brazil's rulers seek to expand their influence on the world imperialist stage. During his 2003-2010 tenure as president, Lula led in the establishment of Brazil as a hemispheric power by taking a lead role in the occupation of Haiti. The atrocities of the Brazil-led UN Mission for the Stabilization of Haiti are written in blood. MINUSTAH recklessly sparked the largest cholera outbreak in recent history, with 800,000 people infected and 10,000 dead (Al Jazeera, 10/15/19). Lula's administration sent 30,000 troops, the bulk of the UN operation's military force from its start in 2004. These soldiers carried on the long and vicious tradition of indiscriminate civilian massacres and rampant sexual abuse by occupying imperialist forces.

Lula's popularity with workers rose in lockstep with global commodity prices, part of the capitalists' boom-and-bust system. During his earlier tenure, as Brazilian oil output grew by 700,000 barrels per day, 20 million Brazilian workers escaped extreme poverty–temporarily (S&P Commodity Insights, 10/31/22). By the time Lula left office in 2010, his approval rating stood at 80 percent (Bloomberg, 12/19/10).

But as oil prices and Brazil's economy inevitably collapsed, Lula's hand-picked successor, Dilma Rousseff, shut down his reforms. As workers suffered from the worst recession in the country's history and homicides reached record levels, the liberal bosses and their cronies kept skimming off the top (New York Times, 10/28/18). The resulting Operation Car Wash corruption scandal sent Lula to jail for 18 months before he was freed in 2019 on a procedural technicality.

Liberals pave the way for open fascists

The blatant corruption, lies, and policy failures of the Lula/Rousseff era opened the door for the right-wing nationalist Bolsonaro to come to power in 2019 as a role model. Donald Trump was halfway through his term as U.S. president. Bolsonaro used the Trump playbook to attack workers with savage pension reforms while spouting vile racism and sexism. His brand of openly fascist ideas won the support of millions and deepened divisions in Brazil's working class, an urgent need for the capitalist bosses when their system is in crisis.

In the absence of a mass communist movement, workers who detested Bolsonaro and Trump were left rooting for the more dangerous liberal fascists, from Joe Biden to Lula and the Brazilian generals whose troops removed the insurrectionists by force.

Fascism signals the bosses' weakness; workers, seize the time!

The blood-soaked and climate-destroying liberal world order, dominated by the genocidal U.S. bosses, has ruled the globe without political competition for the last fifty years. Despite the rot of their system, the capitalists prevailed because communists in Russia and China abandoned the strategy of revolution for a worldwide dictatorship of the proletariat. Meanwhile, workers in the capitalist liberal democracies have remained trapped by the futile hope that voting will somehow improve their lives.

As the profit system begins to fall around our ears, bosses in the U.S. and Brazil, and elsewhere will be forced to discipline their own class, smash their internal rivals, and prepare for World War III by imposing full-blown fascism. If history is any guide, the liberal rulers and finance capital will lead the way. For our class to win, we must reject the rulers' rotten ideas of patriotism and racism. We must overcome cynicism and despair. Led by the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party, workers must embrace our historic role. We must build the confidence to defeat the capitalists in armed revolution and create a society that serves workers' needs.

At a time when mass culture is a science-free zone for hundreds of millions, it remains an uphill battle for our communist movement to grow. Nevertheless, the facts are clear. From China to the U.S., Ukraine to Taiwan, the world is fast moving toward open fascism and global war. To fight back, the working class must be moved by a communist understanding of the necessity of class struggle–of who our real enemies are. We must break with fascism in all its forms, most of all the deadly liberal variety. Just as the cataclysmic world wars of the 20th century opened doors to revolution, the current world situation is both great danger and tremendous responsibility. The ball is in our court. Dare to struggle, dare to win!✪

Nurses strike vs sick working conditions

NYC, January 9 – Nurses in New York City struck a blow against the racist bosses at Mt. Sinai and Montefiore, two of the largest healthcare conglomerates in the city, during a recent strike. Wage increases had already been settled. This strike was against understaffing at these two hospitals in working class Black and Latin neighborhoods. Since the height of the Covid-19 crisis, nurses have been overworked, faced with death more consistently and quit en masse, with one nurse having to care for up to 20 patients in the emergency room. A rep for the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) was overheard saying, "If we hadn't called the strike, the nurses would never have forgiven us." The strike ended after four days with agreements that included concrete measures to enforce safer staff levels (nysna.org).

Members and friends of PLP attended the picket lines in support. Hospital workers around the city were inspired by this angry, multiracial group of mostly women–also combating sexism–refusing to sacrifice themselves and their patients on the altar of capitalist healthcare system.

Imperialist system can only deliver death care

Nurses working at these hospitals recognize how patient care is sacrificed to maximize profits. often at the expense of vulnerable workers. One of the picket signs read, "Babies, Not Bottom Line!" Mt. Sinai and Montefiore each indeed have cash and investment reserves of $2.6 billion and $1.3 billion, respectively. Both have indeed cut back on charity care in the last decade. Kenneth Davis, CEO of Mt. Sinai indeed made $5.6 million in 2019 with raises averaging 12.8 percent per year, and Ozua CEO of Montefiore, made $17.5 million in 2020 with raises of 8.5 percent per year (Portside.com, 1/11). It is true that top management makes large bonuses for saving the hospital's money.

But the problems are bigger than these two mega-systems. The U.S. ruling class is preparing for war against its imperialist rivals, mainly China but also Russia, a war that could turn into WWIII (see CHALLENGE at plp.org). Not only will such wars cause massive death and misery in themselves, but they will also soak up huge amounts of available resources. Monies have been and will increasingly be funneled into the military. One F-35 fighter costs $89 million, enough to keep 3,244 ICU beds in operation. The jet's hourly operating cost is $44,000 – how many nurses could be trained and paid with that over a year? (Stockholm International Peace Research).

Choose communism, for good healthcare

As the healthcare pie shrinks, the bosses are fighting over it. The health insurance industry is gobbling up Medicare and Medicaid dollars, enrolling people like NYC retirees in so-called "advantage" plans to reap profits by denying care. The pharmaceutical and medical device companies are raking it in with their patents and exorbitant prices. The hospital industry is responding with a wave of conglomeration as systems like Mt. Sinai and Montefiore snap up hospitals (often closing those they consider unprofitable, like Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, shuttered by an early iteration of the Mt. Sinai system in 2014).

When workers demand more staff, these profiteers argue that high executive salaries, minimizing charity care, prioritizing commercial insurance over Medicaid and Medicare, and cuts in staffing are necessary to run a viable healthcare business. In this imperialist system, on the brink of war, they are right. We need to workers to join Progressive Labor Party to fight to build an international movement to eliminate these sick imperialists, and organize a communist society run for and by the working class without profits, private ownership, racism and sexism. ✪

For patients, workers strike against layoffs & cuts



A nurse's quality working condition = patient's quality care.

CHICAGO, January 7 – Members of the communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) rallied today outside the office headquarters of Howard Brown Health (HBH) in support of workers and patients facing cuts in jobs and services. With our bullhorn, we chanted "Not one layoff!" at the busy intersection, distributing flyers and copies of CHALLENGE to HBH workers entering the building for negotiations and others passing through the neighborhood.

Our actions were a continuation of support for the HBH workers, who had just completed a three-day strike in protest of the bosses' racist and sexist layoffs of dozens of employees. The HBH network of "non-profit" clinics across the city – which claim to be a top provider of services for LGBTQ+ workers – are crying broke. But many workers are cutting through the lies and excuses about the bosses' funds and are fighting back!

We support their fightback as communists because we know it is also our fight. Whether it's striking nurses in the UK or New York City or health workers facing jail time for protesting in Zimbabwe, we must see all these battles as a common struggle against an oppressive and exploitative capitalist system that can never meet the needs of the working class. We invite workers to join the revolutionary communist struggle to overthrow the racist capitalist system once and for all and replace it with a worker-run world.

The bosses say cut back, we say fight back!

Workers at HBH first learned of the bosses' intent to lay off dozens of staff around a month ago and immediately organized a protest at that time with a rally outside a North Side clinic. After it was made clear that the bosses intended to still follow through with the cuts, hundreds of workers mobilized through their union in order to call for a three-day unfair labor practice (ULP) strike.

The HBH bosses have stuck to their claims that the institution is in dire financial straits and, therefore, layoffs are necessary to stay afloat. Never mind the fact that they are going ahead with building a brand new facility on the North Side of Chicago to the tune of some $50 million, or that top executives like CEO David Munar rake in a salary of over $300,000 (Chicago Reader, 1/13).

Furthermore, they have shamelessly pushed the lie that they are mainly cutting unfilled positions and that the layoffs won't negatively affect patient care. What a sick joke! Those at HBH, as well as the majority of workers exploited under capitalism, understand how less staff on the job means a greater workload, more stress, and worse outcomes for ourselves as well as for patients.

Also, on account of capitalism and racism going hand in hand, the proposed cuts are projected to occur at South Side clinics where more Black and Latin patients receive services. In PLP, we say a system that cannot provide decent healthcare for the entire working class doesn't deserve to exist and must be destroyed with revolutionary communist leadership!

Putting communist politics forward on the picket line

Those of us in the PLP that participated in the pickets pushed to advance class conscious and communist ideas. We brought hot food and beverages to support the workers chanting and marching in the wind and rain, along with our co-workers and friends from our work in mass organizations. We also distributed a couple hundred Party flyers about the strike along with many copies of CHALLENGE.

Being in the thick of the picket helps us as workers get a sharper understanding of the nature of the class struggle and the necessity of worker unity and fighting back. Talking with strikers and hearing their speeches in person about how much they worried for their patients' conditions and their own in the aftermath of the layoffs added extra fuel to the fire.

We stressed the importance of being proactive in the class struggle, not just waiting until the attacks came to us personally. As one PLP member put it, "I'm here because I know I'd want you all to have my back when I'm on strike at my hospital." The workers united will never be defeated!

Liberal identity politics, union reformism fail workers

The experience of the Howard Brown strike helps to shine light on a couple truths in the class struggle. The first fact is that a boss is a boss, whatever their gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, or race. It makes no difference if HBH CEO David Munar is a gay man; at the end of the day, he will enforce the business decisions necessary to the nature of competition and the profit system. The same goes for Black Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot protecting the murderous kkkops and attacking workers as she looks out for wealthy developers.

The second fact is that unions are clearly limited under capitalism. While they can provide a basic level of protection and organization to workers, they can never shield us completely from the bosses' attacks because they operate within the confines of the bosses' laws. While the union may have stopped the HBH bosses from eliminating over 100 positions like they originally planned, over 60 workers still lost their jobs (Block Club Chicago, 1/6). They can never raise the bar of struggle to the point where no worker is seen as expendable; only a communist society can achieve this by putting the working class in control.

Join the communist Progressive Labor Party

This worker-run communist society is being fought for here and now. We don't have to continue to settle for less on the never-ending treadmill of reform. We invite workers from HBH and everywhere to join the Party to crush capitalism and build an egalitarian world.✪

Antiracist strike against transit bosses

WASHINGTON D.C. January 16, —Almost 100 transit workers in Loudoun County, a well-to-do Virginia suburb of Washington, DC, walked out on January 11 over an insulting contract offer by Keolis, a transnational transit company contracted by Loudoun County to cut costs. Keolis has proposed a two-tier wage system for bus operators with a difference of over $13 per hour. This is a clear divide and conquer strategy, a hallmark of capitalist bosses' efforts to weaken the working class and deepen the exploitation of workers.

The bosses think they can get away with such tactics because many of the workers are immigrants. But workers chose antiracism instead,with 96 percent of workers voting to strike and set up strong picket lines, crushing that idea. Communists in the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) have been welcomed as they strengthen the picket line and share CHALLENGE newspapers with the transit workers.

The workers are resisting the two-tier system and are fighting for better health benefits and pensions. This is the fourth recent strike of workers in Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689 in the D.C. area against private contractors that operate public transit vehicles. The workers—Black, Latin, Asian, Middle Eastern, and white, men and women, immigrant and U.S. born—have all shown great unity in the struggle, all the more necessary because the ATU International, which has intervened in this strike, has typically accepted substandard contracts in the past to save money by reducing the costs of strike benefits.

The ATU 689 workers formed a contingent in Leesburg's annual Martin Luther King parade on January 16, enthusiastically chanting their demands, and then returned to the picket lines. PLP members joined with them all day, sharing CHALLENGE and deepening ties for ongoing activities. On the picket line, a transit worker told us that Keolis is owned by Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français (SNCF), a French company that in World War II transported over 76,000 Jews to Germany on their way to genocide in Auschwitz (only about 2,200 of deportees survived the Holocaust) (Atlantic, 3/18/2014). It looks like these bosses are still Nazis!

The spirit of solidarity shone this week beyond the strike itself. The picket line is next to an adult men's detention center. A young man was released from the jail, and in freezing temperatures and strong winds, was trying to walk home wearing only a t-shirt and flip flops. The strikers on the picket line called him over and a worker gave him the jacket off his back while other workers found gloves and cash to help him get home. This is the character of our class, and it is such feelings of class solidarity that will lead to overthrowing this entire racist capitalist system.

As we go to press the company has made its "last best offer" and canceled further negotiations. The struggle continues.✪

Retiree workers demand healthcare for all

NEW YORK CITY, January 9—The city council held a meeting to debate the topic of whether to amend Administrative Code 12-126. This code provides some protection for retired city workers' healthcare. Retired city workers are fed up with the NYC bosses trying to destroy their medical benefits. As this week has shown with the courageous strike by NYC nurses (see page 3), whose main demand has been patient staffing ratios, the bosses have no interest in preserving the health of the working class. Under capitalism, even with traditional Medicare, healthcare has little to do with keeping workers healthy and everything to do with keeping bosses in control.

Forcing workers into Medicare Advantage plans, so that bosses can make profits is deadly for our entire class. As capitalism spirals into a deeper crisis the bosses' hands will be forced to cut more life-saving services for workers. They need to finance their next major global conflict with rivals China and Russia, so that they can remain at the top of the imperialist food chain.

The bosses' dictatorship will never vote to fully provide our class with free and life-saving preventive healthcare if conflicts with their bottom line. Such care can only exist in a system that puts worker's lives above profits. That system is communism–run by and for the international working class.

Workers pressure pols

Retired city workers have bombarded their council people with over 10,000 emails and phone calls. More than 200 workers signed up to testify against amending the Code and to support their fellow workers for over eleven grueling hours. The irony of this waiting was that workers had to sit through a representative from the Office of Labor Relations praising the Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan.

Even some of the council members were disgusted because there was no written copy of the plan and no guarantees for what workers would face after five years.

Shoddy healthcare

The bosses want to destroy Medicare: 43 percent of Medicare members are already in privatized plans. The federal government, both Republicans and Democrats, have been providing subsidies to advance the schemes of insurance companies and investors to put the pot of healthcare money in their pockets rather than to provide healthcare to the working class. Now Aetna is promising a plan supposedly with few denials of coverage but when the whole system is privatized Aetna will increase co-pays, premiums and many denials of service. In Medicare 2 percent of the healthcare dollar goes to administrative costs, while in Medicare Advantage Plans 12-18 percent of the healthcare dollar goes to administrative costs or higher salaries for insurance executives and profits.

Sellout union



Capitalist's unions and their politicians will never give our class the healthcare we deserve. Fight for communism!

After the city's representative of the insurance company interests spoke, the sell-out union leaders spoke supporting amending the code. The union misleaders insulted their members by saying that the problem was that some workers will not accept change. Workers have a right to be scared because changing Code 12-126 will enable the city administration to change the HIP/HMO benchmark rates of $900 that the city must pay for every worker's healthcare. 12-126 ensures an equal subsidy for all city employees and has done so since 1967. 12-126 sets a defined price threshold set in city law. Past lawsuits have blocked the city from forcing retirees to pay extra money to stay in traditional Medicare when they reject Medicare Advantage plans. Code 12-126 states that the city must provide a premium free plan to all retirees. Without the fear of continuing lawsuits, which the organization fighting to retain equity in healthcare has been winning, the city will be free to force retirees into Medicare Advantage plans.

Since 1967, unions have negotiated and provided healthcare choice to members while Code 12-126 has been in effect. UFT misleader, Mike Mulgrew, is saying that only by amending Code 12-126 could he continue to provide a choice for his members. The only "choice" that he wants to provide is to divide the working class. Poor city retiree workers will be forced to go into Medicare Advantage while he will make a deal to enable retired city workers with more money to pay about $2300 a year as an individual or $4600 a year as a couple to keep traditional Medicare enrollment. At the same time Mulgrew backed the city's looting of healthcare stabilization funds to finance teacher raises and retroactive pay rather than forcing the city to pay those costs.

Reject bosses' sick democracy, fight for communism

Some of the Democratic members of the City Council stated that they supported the struggle of the nurses and regarded healthcare as a human right. One council member said Aetna shouldn't be considered as a healthcare provider since the company began by insuring enslaved people for enslavers. He stated that the city's budget for 2023 is $99.7 billion. Paying $600 million for city workers' healthcare is a minimal cost compared to the deaths of thousands of retirees because of inferior healthcare.

While we don't know how city council members will vote, we do know that voting is the bosses' tool to solving their problems. Mayor Adams, a Black liberal fascist mayor, is committed to saving costs at the expense of New York City workers' lives. But even if the majority Black-, Brown- and woman-run liberal New York City Council and Mayor Adams decided to vote no on the Medicare Advantage plan, that healthcare was garbage in the first place. As long as we put our stock in in the bosses' democracy it would ultimately mean being spared today, so that we may be sacrificed in their next world war.

We live in a capitalist dictatorship and it is ultimately the bosses' profit-making priorities that control what policies are passed and how they are carried out. More importantly their decision making process is further hampered by a system that is currently in utter disarray, making them wholly incapable of meeting workers' needs.

City workers need to organize other workers to support their struggle for equitable healthcare. We certainly can't rely on our union leadership, the courts or politicians to ensure our healthcare. The only solution is to create a healthcare system under communism that will be based on providing equitable, preventive and effective medical care based on the needs of the working class not on capitalist profits.

Therefore,workers must organize as a class to strangle the toxic bloodsucking vipers that sicken and kill us once and for all.✪

Reds vs evictions part 7
Squire's road to communism

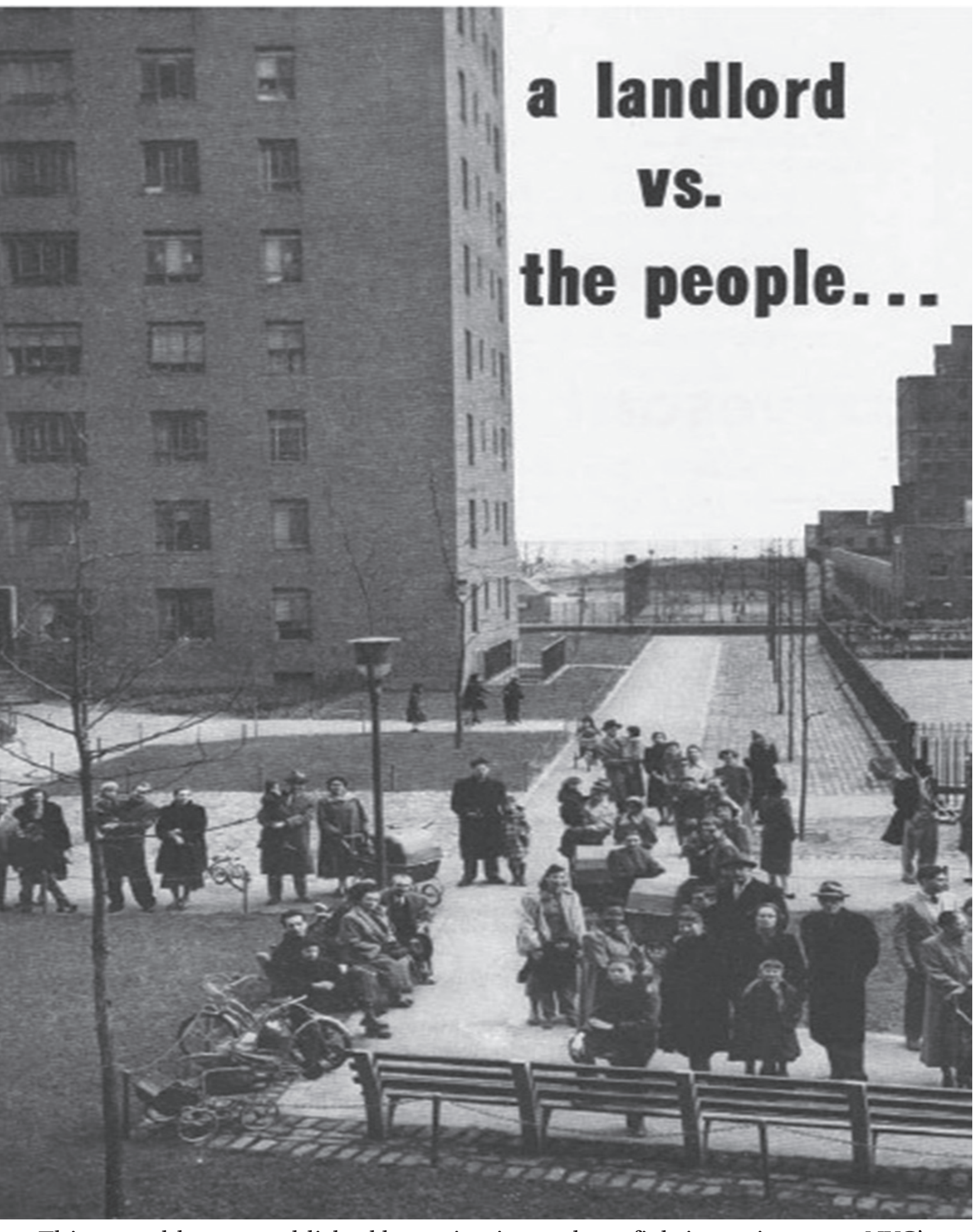
The following is the final installation of our seven-part series of articles reprinted and lightly edited from the communist newspaper Daily Worker in September-October, 1932, written by famous communist Mike Gold. The series was titled, "Negro Reds of Chicago."

Workers here are referred to as Black instead of the original "Negro" to reflect our antiracist principles as well as the linguistic shifts that occurred over decades of antiracist class struggle.

Communists have a long history of fighting against racist attacks on our class. One such fight was against landlords and evictions. In the early 1930s, amid Jim Crow segregation, a Great Depression with record unemployment levels that sank the working class—particularly Black workers living in the urban industrial core—into deeper poverty and despair, the Communist Party in the U.S. (CPUSA) was fighting for revolution inside U.S. borders. This period was a golden age of class-conscious fightback when communist ideas were popular and gripped the imaginations of the working class. Under the leadership of the CPUSA, workers organized militant housing councils, tenant unions that led bold actions that weakened the power of profit gluttonous landlords.

Today our class is in a different period marked by increasing volatility. We are choked by record high inflation, rent hikes, food price gouging compounded by stagnant wages, high unemployment, and an eviction crisis worsened by a still-raging global pandemic. Though the CPUSA is a shell of its former self, decaying into a toothless, reformist party, its history provides valuable lessons for us today.

This series highlights this antiracist revolutionary fightback and contains kernels of working-class wisdom. For this last edition, we take another look at Brown Squire, an energetic Black comrade, who was as dedicated to fighting the bosses as he was to educating his red diaper children.



This pamphlet was published by antiracist workers, fighting to integrate NYC's Stuyvesant Town. Nearly two decades after Brown Squire led a multiracial effort to stop evictions

The Path to liberation is through communist politics

Brown Squire and his seven kids were living on charity relief; he had not been able to work in years. What courage, what heroic faith! The room filled up with people as we talked. One by one they drifted in, saying "Hello, comrades," even the children.

"Yes," said Brown Squire, in his deep, rich baritone, "We Blacks have gone through many disappointments in America. But more and more of us will find the road to Communism. It is our only way out. Only through the Communist revolution will the Black ever find freedom here, exactly as the Jews, Tartars, Mongols and other races found it in the Soviet Union.

"We have trusted many leaders, and they have let us down. But Comrade Lenin will never let us down. The Communist International can never let us down. The Scottsboro case and the nomination of James Ford as Vice-President proves that the American Communist Party has not let us down.

"The white Communists need us, as we need them. We are a fourth of the American working class, and how can the white workers free themselves if they do not free us, also? For, when the land is nationalized, when the factories belong to the workers, when all wealth is socially owned, who will want to exclude us? Who will be able to?

"This is the cause I have enlisted in for life. I am a good soldier, comrades, and I know what I am fighting for. If I must die, it will not be as a coward running away from the lynchers, but as a man fighting for the freedom of my race and my class."

That's right, Brown," said the others, "that's right, comrade." They clapped their hands, and the children shouted, and tears stood in the eyes of Brown Squire's young wife. She is less than thirty, the mother of seven kids whom she cooks and washes for, and a Communist Party member, busy with meetings.

"Do you know," said Brown Squire joyfully, "that everyone on this street is a Communist or Communist sympathizer? Go into any home and they know about the Soviet Union. We have educated them. No, sir, I could not live now unless everything about me is red. Even my kids are red."

"Pioneers Are We"

He lined up his seven kids and from the lean, serious 11-year-old girl, who led them, to the baby in his arms, Brown's children sang the Pioneer songs.

One-two-three
Pioneers are we
Fighting for the working class
Against the bourgeoisie –

They sang in their high, treble voices, then they yelled some of the lively Pioneer chants: "Stand 'em on their heads, stand 'em on their feet, Pioneers, Pioneers, can't be beat!" then a dozen others of the lively tune of red kids the world over, finally the "International."

Outside in the street at least twenty other kids had gathered, attracted by the singing. They joined lustily in the chorus, lifting their fists in the Red Front salute. I have heard our great anthem sung on the streets of Paris, Berlin, Moscow and New York, but never did it seem so moving as in this home of a jobless Chicago worker.

"Hundreds of kids here want to join the Pioneers, but we have no books, literature, instructions. A comrade has taught these kids – he's a war vet, and has a way with kids. Too bad, though, we can't get the right books."

An Eviction

Then a very subdued, heavy-eyed man in old pants and with a bald head, entered the room. Two boys were with him.Brown Squire leaped up and shook his hand.

"What's wrong, Comrade Williams, are they evicting you again?"

"Yes, Brown."

Brown Squire, who had been chatting, laughed easily and turned into a red commander before our eyes. "Round up some of the boys and let's go." Men left the room hastily and visited some of the neighborhood homes. Five minutes later thirty soldiers of the class struggle were lined up in the street, and read to fight evictions. Brown Squire led them, they sang the International as they marched, and the sidewalks cheered and applauded.

Brown Squire told me a story that revealed like lightning this world of new history.

There was a Communist demonstration and some republican politician ran in his truck with all his signs in an effort to utilize the demonstration to advertise his candidacy. The workers forced the truck from the scene, at the same time tearing some of the signs down. When the truck returned, another scuffle took place. During it, one of the Black workers who had sent this truck raced out and shot a white comrade named Madden. Three months later, when I met him, Madden's arm was still paralyzed.

The Black comrades rushed out, found the thug, and gave him the beating of his life. The cops arrived and saved him, arresting, of course, not this willful republican murderer, but Brown Squire and another worker.

That night in the cell this comrade said to Squire:

"Squire, you and I together fought with guns in the race riots. We hated the whites. Do you realize what we two did today? We beat up a Black capitalist in defense of a white worker."

"Yes," said the other, "we have come a long way, and I know it has been the only way."✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Down with slumlords and kkkops, up up with community ties

PLers continue to base build with the Rodwell Spivey family as they grapple with another capitalist-borne crisis —an electrical fire to their home. The Rodwell Spivey brothers were harassed, stopped, and frisked by undercover Newark police officers in June 2021 and faced continued harassment for up to two years. Inspired by their ferocious fightback against police terror, PL stood with the brothers and family and continues to stand by their side. As their family felt like they were just starting to get their lives back on track, ready to celebrate Christmas together, a vicious slumlord left the family in their home without heat for days.

Like many workers, they thought a quick and harmless fix would be plugging in a space heater. Unbeknownst to them, the slumlord left them in a trap of a home with improper electrical wiring that led to a fire to a floor of their home, setting new furniture ablaze and leaving a six-month-old and teenage girl without many of their clothes. After the fire, members of PLP visited and called the family as soon as we heard the news. We also crowdfunded donations amongst our group, and a stylish friend of the Party donated clothes to the teenage girl, Justin Rodwell's daughter, who's interested in fashion.

The Rodwell Spivey brothers are still awaiting a court date for municipal court after local bosses detained Justin for over a year in Essex County Jail. Although the charges have been lowered, workers have to face the brunt of this system in a number of ways daily, and it sometimes feels like we can never catch a break. The slumlord, who manipulates workers for profit, fixed some of the electrical in their home but is hardly doing anything to fix the extensive damage to the property.

When I suggested that the family report this slumlord to code enforcement, they shared that they knew a woman who reported a slumlord and was forced to vacate her property with nowhere else to live. This was a reminder that workers cannot count on reforms. Even reforms that seem to work for some, most typically stable workers, leave mostly others out in the cold once the verdict is done.

The Rodwell Spivey family is now making do with what they can, just as workers do and always have and just as communists do and always have, we are standing by their side and practicing ways we can not just make this system easier to deal with but be smashed for good. As capitalism crumbles, more workers will be left with piecemeal reforms and our own crises to solve. We must keep pushing and showing how communism is the only solution.

★★★★★

DSA fights for piece-meal reforms

The North Jersey Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) recently held a forum in Jersey City concerning the right for counsel for tenants. The event started with a panel of tenants, many transplants from New York City that moved to Jersey City for more space and cheaper rent and were met with decaying housing conditions in a new building.

When their landlords refused to fix water leaking into their homes and shoddy elevators, the workers in the building banded together. They said one of the best things about the housing horror is that they were able to build community with their neighbors. They ended off the tenants' panel by encouraging other workers to build tenants' associations in their homes and shared they'd even help show people how to do it.

After seeing what the world would be like if workers fought for and built better housing conditions, DSA followed the discussion with a panel about their right-to-counsel reform idea. Basically, what right to counsel means is if you are threatened with eviction by your landlord, DSA is touting that you should get a free lawyer at the bare minimum.

One comrade pointed out the contradiction in DSA's plan: they want workers to get behind protesting for community developers to fund this program. Not only that but DSA leaders imagine that this right to counsel could be central in City Hall of Jersey City. A comrade, a nonprofit worker, pointed out on the open mic that public and private dollars seldom coexist and that the plan doesn't seem tangible.

DSA leaders' response was that developers would fund it if we made them fund it! Besides, this plan is a stretch of the imagination, it continues to allow evictions and illegal rent increases to be maintained. If profit motives exist, profit will always be put over people.

The only way every worker will have a place to live is if we destroy profit, exploitation, and the whole capitalist system! Sellout groups like DSA deter us from making this world possible.

★★★★★

Need to explain material basis for racism

The January 4th issue has a lead article: *John Hopkins Police Terror is Essential to Capitalism.* It is a well written article documenting the history of racism on the John Hopkins campus and the role of campus security in fueling racism and attacking legitimate uprisings by students and workers at John Hopkins in fighting racism and injustice on the campus.

What I found lacking in the article was the material basis for racism in capitalist society. That is the underlying foundation for racism in the workplace and in communities in which we live. We as communists have a duty to educate and organize our class by developing communist consciousness. The material basis of racism which we have documented in *Racism, A Fighter's Manual a*nd other Progressive Labor Party (PLP) documents is the super-exploitation of Black and immigrant labor that allows Wall Street to steal trillions of extra profit through underpaying Black, Latin, and immigrant workers in excess of the exploitation of the rest of the working class.

A system of racist job classifications which channel workers of color into lower paying jobs, unsafe working conditions still predominate throughout the labor force. This super-exploitation transcends national boundaries and can be found in Europe, the Global South, Asia, the U.S., and wherever capitalism shows its face. This is the foundation of racism that generates its own racist culture globally to justify systemic exploitation. Racist police terror is not merely built on prejudice but the systemic racism of the profit system.Smash racist capitalism. Build PLP.

★★★★★

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

South Africa:

Workers battle local bosses and rival imperialists

Thirty years after the end of apartheid rule, racist capitalism remains in power in South Africa, while rival imperialists China and the U.S.A. contend for influence in this strategic part of the world. Militant workers demand change, and some, led by the National Union Of Metalworkers Of South Africa (NUMSA) have broken up with the African National Congress (ANC) to organize independently. Like workers everywhere, they need an international communist party to battle both local and global capitalists.

Bosses' economic and political crises

Facing a soaring cost of living and ANC government inaction, hundreds of thousands of workers in South Africa went on strike in November 2022, demanding big wage increases. Inflation is currently above seven percent, and the government is offering unions only three percent wage increases (Al Jazeera, 10/4/2022). The unemployment rate is 33 percent. In this global economic crisis, all the ruling class offers is empty promises.

The bosses' promise to end "corruption" has sunk the government into a political crisis. More than a third of the population has had to bribe police, judges, or magistrates (L.A Times, 9/30/2015). President and ANC head, Cyril Ramaphosa, vowed to "clean up" corruption, but he himself is currently mired in possible tax evasion, kidnapping, and bribery (Africa News, 10/22/2022). ANC political rivals, including former president Jacob Zuma, accuse the others of corruption while involved in it themselves. Zuma still faces old charges of selling billions of dollars of state assets to his business associates.

South Africa: Workers fight back]

But crying "corruption" obscures the reality that all bosses—Ramaphosa or Zuma, Biden or Trump—are the enemy of workers. Workers in South Africa know that being organized and fighting back is the only way to win. In 2012 we saw the Marikana wildcat strikes, where miners demanded better pay and working conditions, and the state responded by sanctioning the police murder of 34 mineworkers. Not bowing to state terrorism, workers unleashed a strike wave from 2012-14 in mining, auto, trucking, and farming. In Fall 2021, the metalworkers in NUMSA, the largest union on the continent, struck in auto, and in Fall 2022, port workers for Transnet tied up Durban and Cape Town ports (Reuters, 2021, 2022). In the first half of 2022, strikes cost bosses 1.6 million work days (Bloomberg, 2022).

Such bravery and militancy are needed in a country with the worst inequality in the world. Although white settler-colonialism was supposedly defeated, racism and segregation still prevailed. Just as the election of Barack Obama did nothing to end racism in the U.S.

The transition to a Black-led government has done nothing to improve the lives of the working class in South Africa, where 80 percent of the wealth is owned by 10 percent of the population.

Continued on page 7

South Africa: Reject all bosses!

Continued from page 6



Militant workers battle local bosses in South Africa

Workers are also facing crises in basic services like housing, power, water, and sewage; some neighborhoods have been without electricity for more than three years (New Frame, 6/20/2022). After capitalists steal the surplus-value workers create in the workplace– they keep as much of that profit as possible through government denial of basic services to workers' communities. But as strikes shut down workplaces for higher wages, organized protest for basic services has also surged in workers' shack dweller communities (Ngwane, Amakomiti, 2021).

Imperialist tug-of-war for South Africa

Surrendered to capitalism by the new ANC rulers, South Africa is simultaneously the object of a tug-of-war between competing imperialist powers. While Western capitalists still own key banking and extractive industries, China's influence is rising. South Africa is part of the China-led grouping, BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), which aims at countering U.S.-led imperialists, refusing, for instance, to join the U.S. in sanctioning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. But BRICS does not benefit workers.

Transnet, the huge South African rail, port and pipeline company, showed the increasing influence of Chinese capital when it purchased locomotives at vastly inflated prices from a state-owned enterprise, the Chinese Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC). This involved 20 percent kickbacks to the Gupta family, now notorious for their "state capture" of the government under Zuma (BizNews, 2/2/2022). Chinese capital also has a 20 percent interest in South Africa's largest bank (African Business, 12/2007). The influence of Chinese capital threatens institutions like the World Bank, representing "Western" or "Global North" imperialists and the global dominance of the U.S. dollar. But China's rise is no more beneficial to workers than the U.S. decline.

The different wings of the U.S. ruling class respond differently to China's challenge in South Africa. Trump, when he led the small fascist wing, was not interested in "winning" South Africa and amplified racist accusations about the organized killing of white South African farmers (NPR, 8/23/2018). Big Fascist Joe Biden (see Glossary on page 6), representing the imperialist interests of the main wing of the U.S. ruling class, is trying hard to win Ramaphosa to support NATO's war with Russia (AP News, 9/1/2022).

Choose communism!

Neither Chinese bosses nor Black ANC bosses will save workers in South Africa from class exploitation and inequality. Some of these workers, heroic veterans of antiracist class struggle, have broken with the sell-out leadership of the ANC, the SACP, and the union federation COSATU. If they go on to choose communism over reformism and nationalism, they will again play a vanguard role in liberating all workers from imperialism. The goal of the Progressive Labor Party is to build an international revolutionary communist party with such workers in South Africa and everywhere in the bosses' world. ✪

The ANC "Loses Its Soul"

The 1994 election of the ANC ended racial apartheid, so how is it that workers still face "economic apartheid?" The truth is that the founding ANC document, the Freedom Charter, contained many contradictions. Two ideologies competed in the Charter: The first view, expressed by Nelson Mandela in 1956, envisioned the emergence of a 'non-white bourgeoisie', following the dismantling of the white monopoly over productive resources. The other view, put forth by Oliver Tambo in 1983, envisioned an end to the 'exploitative system on which apartheid is based'" (Khan, Review of African Political Economy, 2013). Tambo's view aimed at ending capitalist exploitation, but Mandela's simply sought to dismantle white monopoly ended up as ANC policy.

What ultimately happened to the struggle against racial apartheid? With Mandela's rise to power, those who favored radical change were defeated by the liberal-capitalist, Black nationalist elements. Ronnie Kasrils, a South African Communist Party (SACP) and ANC leader, recalls:

"From 1991 to 1996 the battle for the ANC's soul got underway, and was eventually lost to corporate power: we were entrapped by the neoliberal economy – or, as some today cry out, 'we sold our people down the river'" (Guardian, 6/24/2013). South Africa's President, Cyril Ramaphosa, once a leader of mineworkers union transformed himself into a rich capitalist while leading the ANC. Workers led by NUMSA, however, have broken with the failed ANC and its allies, and even attempted to form a new communist party.

Nevertheless, the SACP followed a revisionist line, so they too fell in line with capitalism. They fought for national not class liberation, abandoned fighting for communist revolution in favor of a socialist one, and called for forming a united front with liberal and nationalist capitalists.The result is that the new Black elites hailed by the ANC and SACP perpetuate "the super-exploitation and brutalization of Black workers at rates far exceeding apartheid " (Khan, 2013). Thus post apartheid South Africa is a textbook example of the failures of nationalism.

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

KKKops doing what they're hired to do: attack workers

The Guardian, 1/6 –U.S. law enforcement killed at least 1,176 people in 2022, making it the deadliest year on record for police violence...Police across the country killed an average of more than three people a day, or nearly 100 people every month last year according to Mapping Police Violence.

The racial disparities have also persisted: Black people were 24% of those killed last year, while making up only 13% of the population. From 2013 to 2022, Black residents were three times more likely to be killed by U.S. police than white people. The inequality is particularly severe in some cities, including Minneapolis where police have killed Black residents at a rate 28 times higher than white residents, and Chicago, where the rate was 25 times higher.

Capitalist healthcare = exploiting workers

Medscape, 1/10–Most of the 30 volunteers who work at the 130-bed, for-profit East Cooper Medical Center spend their days assisting surgical patients — the scope of their duties extending far beyond those of candy stripers, baby cuddlers, and gift shop clerks. In fact, one-third of the volunteers at the Tenet Healthcare-owned hospital are retired nurses who check people in for surgery or escort patients to a preoperative room, said Jan Ledbetter, president of the hospital's nonprofit Volunteer Services Organization..."They're kept extremely busy," Ledbetter said. "We need to have four of those volunteers a day."

The U.S. health system benefits from potentially more than $5 billion in free volunteer labor annually, a KHN analysis of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Independent Sector found. Yet some labor experts argue that using hospital volunteers, particularly at for-profit institutions, provides an opportunity for facilities to run afoul of federal rules, create exploitative arrangements, and deprive employees of paid work amid a larger fight for fair wages. "The rules are pretty clear, and yet it happens all the time," said Marcia McCormick, a lawyer who co-directs the Wefel Center for Employment Law at Saint Louis University.

Imperialists fight over Taiwan

CNN, 1/9–A Chinese invasion of Taiwan in 2026 would result in thousands of casualties among Chinese, United States, Taiwanese and Japanese forces, and it would be unlikely to result in a victory for Beijing, according to a prominent independent Washington think tank, which conducted war game simulations of a possible conflict that is preoccupying military and political leaders in Asia and Washington. A war over Taiwan could leave a victorious U.S. military in as crippled a state as the Chinese forces it defeated. At the end of the conflict, at least two U.S. aircraft carriers would lie at the bottom of the Pacific and China's modern navy, which is the largest in the world, would be in "shambles."

"The United States and Japan lose dozens of ships, hundreds of aircraft, and thousands of service members. Such losses would damage the U.S. global position for many years…China also suffers heavily. Its navy is in shambles, the core of its amphibious forces is broken, and tens of thousands of soldiers are prisoners of war," it said.

Egyptian workers cut back on meat, medicine and clothing to meet IMF demands

Wall Street Journal, 1/12–Egypt plans to cut spending after the International Monetary Fund extended hundreds of millions of dollars in an economic bailout package, as the country struggles to pay off debts accumulated from a decades long building boom. It will need to sell off $2 billion in public sector assets and borrow more than $1 billion each from the World Bank and China Development Bank to help close the gap, according to the IMF.

Across the country, families have been cutting back on meat, medicine and clothing. Bread, rice and cooking oil have been among the items missing from store shelves, after demand for cheap items soared. Authorities have been reluctant to announce any formal cutbacks to a food subsidy program that helps tens of millions of Egyptians access cheap rice, oil and sugar, although the government has become more stringent on who can receive ration cards.

LESSONS FROM HISTORIC NURSES STRIKE IN A TIME OF GROWING FASCISM

WORCESTER, January 18—On March 8, 2021, at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, 800 nurses at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts took to the streets demanding safe patient to staff ratios and safe working conditions, a capitalist nightmare for their bosses at Tenet Healthcare (the parent company for St. Vincent's). Nurses were forced to resort to wearing garbage bags for personal protective equipment and hundreds became infected with Covid-19 (portside.org). The pandemic was exposing our broken, racist, medical system, and the nurses were refusing to accept it. Just as with the recent nurses strike in NYC (see page 3), they were strong and united and won broad multiracial community support because their demands proved their antiracist, pro-working-class commitment to patients.

Progressive Labor Party members walked the picket line regularly and our communist ideas were welcomed by many (CHALLENGE, 10/9/2021). Many politicians and religious groups also supported the strike. However, their role was to curb militancy on the picket line by pushing pacifism, and voting. Tenet retaliated by flying in replacement nurses, "scabs" from California to break the strike and bust the union. Tenet also paid the police $30,000 a day to escort the scabs across the picket line.

Nurses fight healthcare bosses' attacks

After a valiant 10 month strike, nurses won their safe staffing demand, but the Tenet bosses continued to wage class war. After the contract was voted in, they forced all the nurses to reapply for their jobs. The intimidation and humiliation surrounding this process forced more nurses out.

Then, Tenet used the Right to Work Foundation to decertify the nurses' union. The Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) won the decertification vote by only a small margin. Conditions are no worse than before the strike and forced overtime is still an issue. Each additional patient assigned to a nurse increases the odds by seven percent that one of their patients will die (nationalnursesunited.org). The nurses continue to fight back against the hemorrhaging of nurses and other workers. More recently Tenet announced a plan to close the hospital's IV unit and force the nurses and doctors to do this job. The nurses picketed outside Tenet boss Carolyn Jackson's office to protest this disastrous move and presented a petition demanding that the IV Unit be maintained.

As the third largest for-profit healthcare corporation in the U.S., Tenet had staying power in the strike. Their 465 day surgery centers, 110 other outpatient centers, and 60 other hospitals, guaranteed that the profits kept rolling in. Run by unscrupulous CEO's committed to their profit margins, Tenet created an unsafe environment for patients and staff, closing beds and services to prolong the strike. These thieves have been convicted and fined many times for unfair firings, overcharging Medicare, doing unnecessary procedures, hospitalizing psychiatric patients unnecessarily, and many other crimes against patients and staff (justice.gov). During Covid-19, Tenet's union-busting greed knew no bounds. They got $600 million in federal grants and used it to acquire 45 hospital ambulatory centers, while they furloughed and laid off workers (Forbes).

Striking against the bosses flexes the working class's potential power. Using that momentum to build a communist movement will ultimately institute workers' power.

Union sells workers down the river

The MNA rallied the courage and commitment of the hospital's nurses and conducted a serious strike, but they were hampered by the pro-capitalist outlook of the trade union movement. This outlook kept them focused on their own immediate demands rather than on spreading the strike and building the political consciousness that steels workers for the harsh battles ahead.

The MNA leadership squandered the opportunity to organize the entire nation-wide membership of National Nurses United (NNU) to strike in solidarity with St. Vincent's nurses as well as organize health care workers in all of Tenet's facilities across the country. This effort could have electrified healthcare workers nationally.

Similarly, in 2018, the national teachers' unions could have called a national strike in solidarity with the teachers strikes for full funding in more than a half dozen states.

It's this kind of strategic outlook that workers in every industry need to gain the upper hand in the class struggle.

Workers' health sacrificed for profit

The evolution of the U.S. economy is paving the way to fascism. Since the 1980s, when the manufacturing sector moved to cheaper production overseas, capitalists have scrambled to find profitable capital investments, the most reliable ones being government-funded services, -- housing, health care, and education. In the 1980s, 80 percent of medical practices were owned by doctors.

Today, they're owned and run by businessmen, and well over half of U.S. hospitals are running in the red (chiefhealthcareexecutive.com). Private equity companies are buying hospitals, nursing homes, emergency rooms and urgent care centers to flip them (sell at a profit). Then the private companies return the favor with political campaign contributions and donations. The privatization of our basic services is a crippling fascist attack on the working class, leading to a failed healthcare system, failed schools, and cities where workers cannot afford to live.

Workers getting fed up

With decades of flat wages, part-time and temporary jobs, and forced overtime, workers are getting fed up! Even before the pandemic the number of strikes hit a 17 year high in 2019. Last year we witnessed a 39 percent increase in the number of strikes than the previous year, including teachers, nurses, graduate students, and journalists (axios.com).

Railroad workers came close to striking this year after their bosses cut the workforce by 30 percent over the past six years, expecting fewer workers to run longer trains at full capacity as often as possible. But their strike was derailed by the Democrats when they supported the union - busting bill that forced the rail workers to accept an unlivable contract.

We need a working-class movement that makes a clean break with the liberal politicians, fascists in the making who pretend to be our friends. Only communists can build a movement that sides uncompromisingly with workers because we are committed to fighting for an egalitarian world without classes, racism, sexism, and borders, where the wealth of society is shared.

Communists won power in the 20th century, raising the lives of workers across the globe, and then they lost it (in China and Russia and internationally) because they compromised their principles. Progressive Labor Party is building a new international communist movement.✪

NEXT DEADLINE

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is the **Friday night of January 27**.

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.